From: Financial Times Briefing <FT@emailbriefings.ft.com>
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Thursday January 02 2014

UK HOMEPAGE

Fiat buys remaining 41.5% of Chrysler

Deal brings an end to a long and drawn-out takeover process marked by haggling with a union pension trust, brightening the future for both carmakers

Desmond explores Channel 5 sale options

Confidence regained - UK recovery expected to strengthen

VIDEO

Christmas sales

Big retailers on both sides of the Atlantic are offering discounts in order to get shoppers through the door. Lex's Vincent Boland and Oliver Ralph discuss what is driving the trend.

US HOMEPAGE

De Blasio sets liberal agenda for New York

New mayor vows at inauguration to fight ‘economic and social inequalities that threaten to unravel city we love’ and promises ‘progressive direction’

Minimum wage rises across 13 US states

Eurozone rate divergence disappoints ECB

EUROPE HOMEPAGE

Insurers make leap in cutting overheads

Alternatives to traditional reinsurance such as catastrophe bonds has helped insurance groups secure biggest drop in reinsurance prices in 15 years

Asian stocks greet 2014 with a whimper

India cancels AgustaWestland order

ASIA HOMEPAGE

Israel to extend Jordan Valley settlement

Future of valley, which Israel wants to keep under its military control after any future agreement, is a big irritant in the five-month-old peace talks

China lends $6.5bn for Pakistan power

US recovery holds key to equity bull run

WORLD NEWS

France speculates on return of Sarkozy

A year which saw François Hollande's popularity plummet has fuelled expectations that the former president is limbering up for a comeback

S Sudan delegates in Ethiopia for talks

Turkey probe links building and politics

Poland president signs off pensions law

Putin visits Volgograd after bombings

COMPANIES NEWS

How Chrysler was steered clear of IPO

The puzzle is why it took so long for the two sides to reach the agreement for Fiat to buy all of Veba's stake almost immediately

Strong John Lewis sales cheer high street

Syrian Electronic Army hacks Skype

Housebuilders face challenge to rebound

Azerbaijan pipeline aims to carve out a niche

MARKETS

2014 outlook: Sugar high

While many see the resurgent demand for riskier loans and bonds as an effect of a nascent US recovery, 'credit Cassandras' say it is a sign of frothy markets

Central bankers must embrace glasnost

Opec supply risk divides oil strategists

COMMENT

What viral content does to news

It is hard not to laugh at the moral outrage among news publishers whose muckraking is being outflanked by cute cat videos

Abe could say sorry by shunning Yasukuni

The case for philosophers in boardrooms

VW Camper's middle-age spread

Wall St stays faithful as Google searches for big ideas

MANAGEMENT

A start-up amid Syria's civil war

A new Damascus-based research organisation wants to publish credible information about the socioeconomic plight of ordinary Syrians

Pity the managers in religious disputes

Guide to the appliance of alliances

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